Amended claims :

CLAIMS

1. A test card (1) inside which sequential reactions and fluid transfer operations are performed under the effect of control means integrated into the card (1), said card (1) including:

- at least two sequential reaction lines arranged in parallel, each reaction line consisting of at least two fluid transfer systems arranged in series,
- at least two valves per parallel reaction line, the valves making it possible to control fluid transfers in series within a channel between several levels (A, B, C, D), each corresponding to at least one processing,

each valve being made up of at least a means which can be deformed by an actuator et lead to direct or indirect closing of said channel, such as a flexible film covering all or part of the upper and/or lower part of the test card, and the configuration of control valves for transferring fluids between two adjacent levels (A towards B or B towards C or C towards D) being the same for all of the reaction lines.

2. The card, according to claim 1, in which each reaction line includes at least one initial compartment, one receiving compartment, a fluid-carrying channel linking the two compartments, the valve positioned on said fluid-carrying channel acting on said channel as a control means of the fluid flow generated by a transfer means, characterized in that the arrangement of the valves on the test card (1) is such that the fluids are allowed to flow between the initial compartment and the receiving compartment at the same time in all the reaction lines.

3. The test card, according to claim 2, characterized in that the valves are arranged along a substantially straight line with all the valves being equidistant.

4. The test card, according to claim 3, characterized in that the substantially straight line is perpendicular to one side of the test card (1).

5. The test card, according to any of claims 2 through 4, characterized in that at least one of the compartments is associated with at least one buffer supply, and the buffer supply is located on the opposite side of the test card in relation to the compartment with which it is associated.

6. The test card, according to any of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that each compartment which contains at least one reagent which is to be brought into contact with the sample or an aliquot of the sample, contains a means of keeping a tablet (consisting of an agglomerate of the reagent[s]) in position, with said means at some distance from the bottom of said compartment.

7. The test card according to claim 6, characterized in that at the center of all or part of compartments there are some, preferably three, small reinforcing stanchions (26), which make up holding means that form a substantially isosceles triangle.

8. The test card according to claim 7, characterized in that these stanchions (26) define the limits of a tablet which contains particles and preferably magnetic particles.

9. The device for implementing a test card (1) according to any of claims 1 through 8, which comprises at least one actuator per reaction line of card (1) and in which all actuators are at a regular distance from one another, preferably with the actuators in the same ramp being equidistant, the device comprising means for moving the card (1) forward in relation to the actuators, and/or comprising means for moving said actuators forward in relation to said card (1), and in which each actuator can be activated independently of the others.

10. The device, according to claim 9, characterized in that the action of the actuators on the card (1) is at a substantially perpendicular angle:

- in relation to the surface of said card (1) where the actuators operate, and/or
- in relation to the direction of movements of both the card (1) and actuator.

11. The device, according to either of claims 9 or 10, characterized in that all the actuators are mounted on a single ramp, and the ramp is substantially rectilinear, substantially perpendicular to the direction of movements of the actuators, and/or substantially perpendicular to the direction of movements of the card and/or of the device with respect to the card.

12. The method for implementing the card (1) according to any of claims 1 through 8, and the device according to any of claims 9 trough 11, characterized in that it includes the following steps:

- generating a pressure differential inside said card (1) with respect to the outside, and preferably a depression,
- introducing at least one sample to be tested into the card (1),
- sending each sample or aliquot of sample through for testing purposes, and
- withdrawing from or keeping in said card (1) a part of each introduced sample.

13. The method, according to claim 12, characterized in that the analysis includes the following steps:

- denaturation of DNA and/or RNA,
- immobilization of DNA and/or RNA molecules on magnetic beads,
- amplification of said DNA and/or RNA, and
- screening of each sample or aliquot of sample to check whether amplification has occurred.

14. The method, according to claim 13, characterized in that the testing includes a preliminary extraction step corresponding to lysis of any cells contained in the sample.

15. The method, according to claim 14, characterized in that the testing includes purification of the sample after extraction and before amplification.

16. The method, according to any of claims 13 through 15, characterized in that the testing includes analysis of the nature of the transcripts by hybridization using a biochip following amplification.

17. The method, according to any of claims 12 through 16, characterized in that the card is used in an inclined or a vertical position during testing.

18. The method, according to either of claims 12 or 17, characterized in that the test card is displaced during the various different steps and/or operations in a sequential manner.

19. The method, according to claim 18, characterized in that the card is displaced along two perpendicular axes in order to align the valves with the valve actuators.